In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method of communicating comprising:

receiving a text message from a user of a source set top box;

transmitting the text message from the source set top box to an exchange;

packetizing at the exchange said text message into a plurality of data packets, wherein said plurality of data packets include said text message, an identifier of said source set top box, an identifier of a destination set top box <u>for the text message</u>, and a packet header information;

forwarding said plurality of data packets to a multiplexor;

multiplexing said plurality of data packets and audio data and video data into an output transport stream; and

broadcasting said output transport stream to <u>a plurality of destination set top boxes, the plurality of destination set top boxes including</u> the destination set top box <u>for the text message.</u>

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

assigning a reserved program identifier to the data packets, and wherein the output transport stream is an MPEG-2 format.

3. (Currently amended)The method of claim 2, further comprising ~~at the destination set top box~~:

receiving the <u>broadcasted</u> output transport stream at <u>each of</u> the destination set top box<u>es</u>;

comparing the reserved program identifier to an identifier of <u>each of</u> the destination set top box<u>es</u>; and

responsive to the comparison, displaying the text message <u>at each destination set top box having an identifier that matches the reserved program identifier.</u>

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further including the step of demultiplexing the data packets, audio data and video data from the transport stream.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], further comprising:

receiving said broadcasted[[,]] output transport stream at ~~said~~ each of the destination set top box~~es~~.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting is done via telephone or cable.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said broadcasting is done via satellite, cable, or wireless.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said receiving is done via satellite, cable, or wireless.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

demultiplexing said broadcasted[[,]] output transport stream at ~~said~~ each of the destination set top box~~es~~ into said text message.

10. (Currently amended) A method of communicating comprising:

receiving a text message from a first source set top box;

packetizing said text message into a plurality of data packets, wherein said plurality of data packets include said text message, an identifier of a first destination set top box for the text message, an identifier of said first source set top box, and a packet header information; ~~and~~

forwarding said plurality of data packets to multiplexor that produces a transport stream containing the data packets, audio data and video data; and

broadcasting the transport stream to a plurality of destination set top boxes, the plurality of destination set top boxes including the first destination set top box.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, further including the step of receiving a text message from ~~another~~ a second source set top box and wherein the plurality of data

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packets includes the text message from the ~~other~~ second source set top box, an identifier of ~~another~~ a second destination set top box and an identifier of the ~~another~~ second source set top box, wherein the plurality of destination set top boxes including the second destination set top box.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 [[10]], wherein said receiving is via telephone, and further comprising:

receiving the broadcasted transport stream at each of the destination set top boxes;

comparing the identifiers of the first and second destination set top boxes contained in the data packets to an identifier of each of the destination set top boxes that received the broadcasted output transport stream;

responsive to the comparison, displaying the text message from the first source set top box at the destination set top box having an identifier that matches the identifier of the first destination set top box and displaying the text message from the second source set top box at the destination set top box having an identifier that matches the identifier of the second destination set top box.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said receiving is via cable.

14.   (Currently amended) A method of communicating comprising:

receiving a plurality of text messages, wherein said plurality of text messages originated at a plurality of source set top boxes;

packetizing said plurality of text messages into a plurality of data packets, the plurality of data packets including the text messages, an identifier of an intended destination set top box for each of the text messages and an identifier of the source set top box for each of the text messages;

multiplexing said plurality of data packets, ~~destination set top box identifiers, and~~ audio data and video data into an output transport stream; and

broadcasting said output transport stream to a plurality of destination set top boxes, the plurality of destination set top boxes including the intended destination set top box for each of the text messages.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said plurality of text messages are received via telephone or cable and wherein the output transport stream is an MPEG-2 format.

16. (Original) The method claim 14, wherein said broadcasting is via satellite, wireless, or cable.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

demultiplexing said broadcasted[[,]] output transport stream at said plurality of destination set top boxes into said plurality of text messages.

18. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method of communicating claim 14, further comprising:

receiving [[a]] the broadcasted[[,]] output transport stream including a plurality of data packets on a at each of the destination set top boxes;

comparing the responsive to a destination set top box identifiers of the intended destination set top boxes contained in the received output transport stream to an identifier of each of the destination set top boxes; and

displaying each of the text messages at the destination set top box having an identifier that matches the identifier of the intended destination set top box for the text message, demultiplexing said broadcasted, output transport stream at said destination set top box into a text message, wherein said text message originated on a source, set top box.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein said receiving is via satellite, cable, or wireless and where the output transport stream is an MPEG-2 format.

20. (Currently amended) A system for communicating comprising:

a service station adapted to receive a plurality of text messages sent from a plurality of source set top boxes, wherein said service station packetizes said plurality of text messages into a plurality of data packets, the plurality of data packets including the text messages, an identifier of an intended destination set top box for each of the text messages and an identifier of the source set top box for each of the text messages;

a multiplexor in communication with said service station adapted to multiplex said plurality of data packets, destination set top box identifiers, and audio data and video data into an output transport stream; and

broadcasting means for broadcasting said output transport stream to a plurality of destination set top boxes, the plurality of destination set top boxes including the intended destination set top box for each of the text messages.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said broadcasting means is a satellite and wherein the output transport stream is an MPEG-2 format.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said broadcasting means is cable.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said broadcasting means is wireless means.

24. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said plurality of text messages received by said service station sent from said plurality of source set top boxes are received via telephone or cable.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a source set top box connected via communication means with said service station.

26. (Original)The system of claim 25, wherein said communication means is telephone or cable.

27.   (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a destination set top box in communication with said broadcasting means.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein said destination set top box is in communication via satellite, cable, or wireless.

29. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a text message from a source set top box ~~to a packetizing means~~;

packetizing means for packetizing said text message into a plurality of data packets, wherein said plurality of data packets include said text message, an identifier of said source set top box, ~~and~~ <u>an</u> identifier of a destination set top box <u>for the text message,</u> and [[a]] packet header information;

multiplexing means<u>,</u> in communication with said packetizing means<u>,</u> for multiplexing said plurality of data packets<u>,</u> ~~and~~ audio data and video data into an output transport stream; and

broadcasting means<u>,</u> in communication with said multiplexing means<u>,</u> for broadcasting said output transport stream to a <u>plurality of</u> destination set top box<u>es, the</u> <u>plurality of destination set top boxes including the destination set top box for the text</u> <u>message</u>.

30. (Previously presented) The communication system of claim 29, wherein said transmitting is done via telephone or cable and wherein the output transport stream is an MPEG-2 format.

31. (Original) The communication system of claim 29, wherein said broadcasting is done via satellite, cable, or wireless.